

## PARISH NEWS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** - We would request all the Parents to send their children to Sunday school for their Spiritual growth and development. The Sunday School Classes starts along with Church Worship Service.

**ERBHS:** Eastern Regional Board of Health Services Society, CNI invites application form for UG-Sponsorship (2025) for various Medical Courses. The last date of submission is on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Mr. Gaurav Samuel Bagh & Mrs. Vanya Vartika Bagh were blessed with the child on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2025. We would like to congratulate them and specially the grandparents Mr. Nitin Bagh & Mrs. Nomita Bagh.

**HOME COMMUNION:** If any elderly member of our Parish, who are unable to come to Church, wishes to take Communion you can contact us and we will be happy to come and pray for you and give you the Holy Sacrament.

**BAPTISM:** Adora Lal daughter of Mr. Vinay Lal & Mrs. Ankita Lal was baptized on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025. We would like to congratulate the grandmother Mrs. Manoranjini Lal.

**REPUBLIC DAY:** On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 we observed Republic Day in our Church. We unfurled our National Flag and we prayed for our Nation.

**THANKSGIVING ENVELOP:** Thanksgiving envelop are kept at the last pew of our Church you are requested to use this envelop for special thanksgiving occasion. (Birthday, Wedding Anniversaries, any other Joyous occasion)

**OUR DAILY BREAD 2025:** Our Daily Bread daily devotional Book 2025 is available with us. We have very limited copies, if anyone wants to buy Our Daily Bread each copy is Rs. 180/-. You can contact our Church Bearer.

**PASTOR'S SUNDAY:** On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 we are observing Pastor's Sunday in our Church, we will be collecting the offerings in the special envelops which are kept at the last pew of our Church. The offertory we collect it will be used for the betterment of the Pastors of our Diocese.

**COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS:** Every Saturday we will be having Cottage Prayer Meeting in the house of Youth Fellowship members & Women's Fellowship Members. The meeting will be conducted on 1st & 3rd Week in the Youth Fellowship member house and on 2nd & 4th Week in the Women's Fellowship member house. The meeting will commence at 6:00 pm.

**LENTEN COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS:** As we are approaching the Lenten Season from the Month of March, we are going to have cottage prayer meeting in each and every house of the Parishioners. All those who wish to have the Lenten Cottage Prayer Meeting in their house can give their names as soon as possible.

**WEDDING BELLS:** Sagar Emanuel Paul & Rev. Shraddha Pattole were joined together in Holy Matrimony on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

We would like to congratulate the couple and pray for a long & Happy Married Life. May the Lord's Blessing be upon the newly wedded couple, and may the Lord be their guide all the days of their life.

**VBS TEACHER'S TRAINING PROGRAMME:** We are pleased to inform you that, the Diocese of Jabalpur CNI along with English Methodist Church & St. Andrew Mar Thoma Church will be jointly organizing the Vacation Bible School (VBS) Teacher's Training Programme on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Christ Church Cathedral from 10:30 am onwards.



## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, (C.N.I), JABALPUR



(Est. 1844)

Church Service- 8:30 am

Sunday School - 8:30 am

Rev. Bruce Thangadurai  
Hon. Presbyterian-in-charge  
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Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.)  
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### CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY – 2025

2 <sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY	2025	SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
9 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	2025	PASTOR'S SUNDAY
16 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	2025	NINETH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER
23 <sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY	2025	EIGHTH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER

### Presbyter's Message

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As a church we all should be aware that we are in such a time that everything seems to be going so fast. We feel that in this world we are also slowly moving away from God. Reason is lust of the eyes, lust of the Flesh and pride of life what is mentioned in 1 John 2:15-17.

1 John 2: 15-17 is a text that is asking us various investigative questions to help us evaluate our friendship status with God based on our response to the worldly values & desires. If we truly are friends with God, then it'll be also reflected in our reaction and response to the worldly values & desire

Let us do a heart diagnosis? We will be reflecting on three diagnostic questions.

1. Do we notice heart idols? (v15)
2. Do we see the deep roots of our heart idols? (v16)
3. Are we trusting in the Gospel today? (v17)

#### 1. Do we notice heart idols? (v15)

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Before we arrive at the definition of heart idols, let's try to understand what does John mean when he says "Don't love the world or the things in this world"? Is it meaning that I shouldn't love my family? Is it meaning that I can't enjoy eating a plate of biryani? Is it meaning that I can't enjoy watching sports? Is it saying that "everything is evil in the world, so I need to leave everything and live like a saint"?

No, that's an extreme unbiblical understanding of the created world. When God created the world and everything in it, He declared it to be "good" in Genesis chapter 1. But something happened when Adam and Eve sinned against God. Something changed in the dynamics. These very same good things that God had given us to enjoy & be reasons to praise Him now became ultimate things for us! That's heart idolatry.

These things in itself were good things as God created them, but in our sin we have made them out to be ultimate things.

In culture, we've made the word "idol" to be an aspirational thing: We have made them our idol in reality heart idolatry for a person, for pleasures, for position and for possessions is dangerous and harmful. Why? Because it controls (enslaves) our heart. It consumes our thought life. It controls the choices and decisions we make to the extent where we will do anything to get it even if it means going beyond God's wise and protective boundaries.

That's what loving the world means – it's heart idolatry. We must know that's in the polar opposite direction of being friends with God.

He may discipline us out of His love but He won't let us be as we are. Secondly, if we are truly his children we can't go on resisting God's loving pursuit & call to turn back to Him.

At this point – can we just pause and ask ourselves what are our heart idols right now? What's something or someone that has consumed our thought life. What's is something or someone we have made out to be ultimate things – saying that we can't live without this.

## 2. Do we see the deep roots of our heart idols? (v16)

16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life[c]—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Many times when we evaluate our idols, we end up only looking at the surface. So we say things like: "social media is my heart idol, food is an idol" etc. These are true but what we need to understand is that all these idols are extremely deep rooted. It can be categorized in 3 ways:

Self-gratification (Desire for flesh): Being controlled and shaped by our appetites & cravings of the body. In essence what we are communicating is "my life & purpose is all about satisfying the pleasures of my heart. I won't stop until all those pleasures are satisfied".

Self-accumulation (Desire for eyes): Being controlled and shaped by our hunger for money & possessions that attract our greed. In this case, we communicate "my life is all about making loads of money, becoming rich and buying whatever I want to buy. I won't stop until I get what I want".

Self-sufficiency (Pride of life): Being controlled and shaped by the security and stability of our earthly resources, skills and knowledge. In this case, we communicate "I'm a self-made individual. I will do whatever it takes to secure my life on the basis of resources, skills and knowledge so that I'll never need to be dependent on anyone else."

## 3. Are we trusting in the Gospel today? (v17)

17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

"Whoever does the will of God" abides forever. What is this will of God that John is telling us to do? John 6:28-29 – 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

First thing we need to realize regarding our heart idols is that on the cross, Jesus Christ paid the entire penalty meant for all the deep-rooted idols in our lives.

Many times in our lives we will be overwhelmed by the extent of our heart idols. Especially when we see repeated patterns of it. But here's what You and I need to know. We aren't left alone to deal with our idols. Help is available right now. There is someone (Jesus) understands the temptations of these heart idols. It's a big statement to know that in every aspect Jesus was tempted as we are but without sin.

Yes, Jesus as our perfect Savior didn't yield to sin but he understands the full force of temptations. So that's why He is the perfect person to pray for us and ask the Father for the right and appropriate help that is needed. All those times when you're weary and disappointed, remind yourself and each other – "Help is available because my Jesus is praying for me right now".

May God bless all of us so that we may resist all the temptation which comes in our lives.

## BIRTHDAYS – FEBRUARY

- 1 Bernadine Park Gunnion, Alfred Clement Praveen Patrick
2. Dorothy Thangadurai, Srishti Sannah Sathe
4. Anna Baroi
6. Norman Kane, Praisey Alishiba Patrick, Caroline Thangadurai
7. Melody Gaekwad, Maj. Caleb Thangadurai, Namitrani Bagh
8. Kishor Peters, Dr. Edith Clements, Jai Moses Arland
9. Jaideep Sathe, Arin Cak 10. Janice Lal,
11. Philip Palmer, Niharika Cak, Jaden Reuel Joseph
13. Priya Masih
15. Shane Ashley Peter, Nysa Lall
17. Sunny Mathew, Rev. Dr. Samuel Shekhar
18. Eden Sonya Martin Albert
19. Angelica Sharma
20. Wendy Nair
- 21 Janet Thangadurai
24. Clarence Simon, Nora Singh, Harshala Rathod
25. Aastha Sathe, Gloria Boro, Sonia Thangadurai
28. Susan Ezekiel

*Wish you all very Happy Birthday with God's Blessings*

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

4. Denis & Priti Patrick
7. Lt. Col Bhasker & Niharika Shinde
14. Dr. Alfred Chien Liao & Dr. Jayshree Liao, Jason & Bernice Langan
17. B.D. & Kiran Sahu
18. Shaun Ramer & Deanna Raymer
27. Sherman & Bernadine Park Gunnion

*We wish the Couple a Happy Long Married Life with God's Choicest Blessings*